



## **NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY WORKING GROUP**

The North American Energy Working Group (NAEWG) was organized at the request of the three leaders of the United States, Mexico and Canada in 2001 and is led by the three Energy Ministers (the Ministry of Natural Resources Canada, the Secretariat of Energy of Mexico, and the U.S. Department of Energy). The group has been a great success in fostering cooperation among the three nations of North America and is working closely together on integrating markets and resolving issues. With strong participation by all three nations, the NAEWG is an excellent example of the possible benefits that can be derived from international energy cooperation and collaboration.

The NAEWG has also become part of a broader trilateral initiative. On March 23, 2005, Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, Mexican President Vicente Fox, and U.S. President George W. Bush announced the formation Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) in Waco, Texas. In order to achieve the SPP's broader commitment of ensuring security and enhancing development in North America, the SPP included six Security Working Groups and 10 Prosperity Working Groups, designed to promote greater cooperation and information sharing in various areas, including a prosperity working group focused on energy. In order to fulfill this mandate, the leaders decided to incorporate the existing NAEWG into the new SPP structure.

Under the SPP, the energy goals are to *“strengthen North America’s energy markets by working together, according to our respective legal frameworks, to increase reliable energy supplies for the region’s needs and development; by facilitating investment in energy infrastructure, technology improvements, production and reliable delivery of energy; by enhancing cooperation to identify and utilize best practices, and to streamline and update regulations; by promoting energy efficiency, conservation, and technologies like clean coal.”*

To these ends, the NAEWG now contains nine expert groups:

1. Electricity Experts Group
2. Energy Efficiency Experts Group
3. Energy Picture Experts Group
4. Hydrocarbons Experts Group
5. Natural Gas Trade and Interconnections Experts Group
6. Nuclear Collaboration Experts Group

7. Oil Sands Experts Group
8. Regulatory Experts Group
9. Science and Technology Experts Group

The NAEWG has produced many concrete deliverables. On Monday, June 10, 2002, it released the first deliverable for the Working Group, "[North America: The Energy Picture](#)." The report presented a range of energy information for the three countries, including an economic overview, energy data, supply and demand trends, energy projections and descriptions of infrastructure, laws and regulations. It is available on the Department of Energy's web site on the link above. An updated edition of this report is now available "[North America – The Energy Picture II](#)".

In 2005, the NAEWG released "The North American Natural Gas Vision," a comprehensive examination of the continental natural gas industry and the challenges it faces in the coming years. Other publications include "[North American Energy Efficiency Standards and Labeling](#)" (2002); the "[North America – Regulation of International Electricity Trade](#)" (2002) and the "[Guide to Federal Regulation of Sales of Imported Electricity in Canada, Mexico, and the United States](#)" (2005).

In addition to these reports, the Working Group examines a broad range of issues on an ongoing basis, including energy science and technology, natural gas trade and interconnections, nuclear energy, hydrocarbons development, oil sands development, energy data reporting, and regulatory issues.

**For additional information:**

Assistant Secretary Karen Harbert  
Office of Policy and International Affairs  
(202) 586-8660

Manolis Priniotakis  
Office of Policy and International Affairs  
(202) 586-8873

Responsibility for the overall coordination of the prosperity initiatives of the SPP for the United States falls to the Department of Commerce. For more information on the SPP, visit: [www.SPP.gov](http://www.SPP.gov).